

Message Text

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61
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BR:AFWATSON:NLF

APPROVED BY ARA/BR:RJBALLANTYNE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT:PRESS GUIDANCE ON DETENTION OF FREDERICK B. MORRIS

REF: 1. JOHNSON-WATSON TELECON

2. STATE 250437

3. BRASILIA 2689

1. DEPARTMENT APPROVES MODIFICATIONS TO PRESS GUIDANCE

CONTAINED REFTEL 2 PROPOSED BY EMBASSY IN REFERENCED
TELECON.

2. NO QUESTIONS CONCERNING MORRIS WERE ASKED AT NOON PRESS
BRIEFING TODAY.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS
FOR REPLIES TO POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE
ACCURACY OF MORRIS' ASSERTIONS ON TODAY SHOW THIS MORNING
THAT THERE ARE 12,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRAZIL AND
THAT 80 TO 100 THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TORTURED IN BRAZIL.

4. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WAS CITED BY MORRIS AS SOURCE OF
REPORT THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRAZIL NUMBER 12,000.

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IN COMMENTING ON THIS FIGURE, SHOULD STATE DEPARTMENT

DRAW UPON FIRST PARAGRAPH OF REFTEL 3 OR DOES EMBASSY
HAVE MORE RECENT INFORMATION?

5. MORRIS GAVE NO SOURCE FOR NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
TORTURED, BUT LEFT VAGUE IMPLICATION IT MIGHT ALSO BE
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. HOWEVER, AI IN 1972 "REPORT
ON ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE IN BRAZIL" LISTED NAMES OF
1,081 PERSONS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN TORTURED. AI'S
1973 GENERAL WORLDWIDE "REPORT ON TORTURE" PROVIDES
NO ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC FIGURES BUT OBSERVES "TORTURE
IS WIDESPREAD AND IT CAN BE SAID TO CONSTITUTE
ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE." INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, ARRESTS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE251670
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AFWATSON:NLF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740329-0472
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741142/aaaabjky.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 1. JOHNSON-WATSON TELECON
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESS GUIDANCE ON DETENTION OF FREDERICK B. MORRIS
TAGS: PFOR, BR, US, (MORRIS, FREDERICK B)
To: BRASILIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005